

Finally, most of the archeological research effort at East Carolina University traditionally has been directed to intensive site excavation, not extensive surveys, reflecting the particular orientation of that program. Nonetheless, continuing building and development in the north Albemarle region necessitates such surveys as soon as possible, as our current knowledge indicates a probable high density of both prehistoric and historic sites.

As noted earlier, there has been little deliberate historic archeological research in the study area. Most work has taken the form of salvage excavation, with occasional work undertaken to assist in the "interpretation" of adjacent standing structures. However, there have been several interesting historical studies made which bear directly on the types of remains likely to be encountered by archeologists. A few of these are cited by way of example.

Lennon (1981) notes that early settlers in North Carolina ignored and refused repeated requests from the home country to found towns on the European model. Thus there are essentially no towns from the 1650s to around 1704. The reasons?--partly because there were no good natural ports immediately accessible to the open sea which could draw the "lucrative and low-risk commerce" seen in New England. In the next few decades after 1704 several towns finally did become a reality, among them Bath, New Bern, Beaufort, and Edenton.

Still (1981) recently completed a review of shipbuilding in one of the coastal towns, Washington. Prior to this there had been almost no research on the topic. In Bath at least one vessel was built in 1707, and there were probably others. Washington was founded in the 1770s, while shipbuilding may have begun in that area somewhat earlier. In 1790 the town was named an official portere. Elizabeth City and New Bern also appear to have been shipbuilding centers (Watts 1986), though their history and archeology is incomplete.

As with historical archeology, we may characterize the state of underwater archeological research in the study area as being in the "pioneer" stage of development (1983). There are some signs of progress. For example, surveys have been conducted to inventory shipwrecks on the Outer Banks, and remote sensing used to conduct surveys addressed to significant historical questions, e.g., locating remnants of 16th century English sites. There is a state-supported Underwater Archeological Unit located at Fort Fisher which has begun a comprehensive inventory of the state's underwater cultural resources. Efforts to date have focused on shipwreck sites, usually those most threatened by construction or engineering projects or other factors (cf. Watts et al. 1979).

In order to foster and enhance processional studies and to meet a variety of research interests, the Corps and the Division of Archives and History are pursuing several specific program goals and are setting the stage for new regulatory review and coordination procedures. First, the state is continuing its survey of harbor fronts and other sensitive areas in an effort to identify specific significant sites or to create historic shipwreck districts (Ramsing 1985). At the same time, the Division and the Corps are cooperating to